



**COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FORT SMITH
MEETING 05-20
THE FIRST REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL FOR
THE MONTH OF MAY AND THE
FIFTH FOR THE YEAR 2020**

PRESENT: Mayor L. Napier D/M K. Smith
 Cr. K. Campbell Cr. B. McArthur
 Cr. M. Couvrette Cr. J. Cox
 Cr. A. Pischinger Cr. C. Westwell
 Cr. L. Beaulieu

REGRETS:

STAFF: K. Morrison, Senior Administrative Officer
 C. White, Director of Community Services
 R. Nawaz, Executive Secretary

GALLERY: Sgt. Peters, RCMP

Meeting 05-20
May 19th, 2020

7:00 PM
Videoconference

A. CALL TO ORDER & CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Mayor Napier called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and confirmed a quorum of Council was present.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

20-099 Moved by: Cr. Couvrette
 Seconded by: Cr. Cox

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. PRESENTATIONS

a. RCMP Delegation

- i. Police Report – The RCMP Police Report for April 2020 was reviewed. Sgt. Peters noted that priorities have been identified and reviewed priorities. He referred to the first priority, Organized Crime - Drug Trafficking, and noted that this has been identified based on recent intelligence and the extent of the hard drug concerns in the community. He noted that this priority is specifically enforcement based. He referred to the second priority, Traffic – Impaired Driving, and noted that there are a fair number of calls for impaired driving and clearance rates are not great on these. He noted that they will be taking a more proactive approach regarding this. In reference to the third priority, Police / Community Relations, he noted that this is working as a detachment to attend meetings, share information with partner governments, and involvement in community activities. He noted that priority four, Reconciliation Youth Activities, is in relation to work with Indigenous communities. He noted that reconciliation is fast becoming a national priority within the RCMP and they will be looking at ways to implement his locally in consultation with local First Nations and Elders. He noted that the RCMP would like to hear what they can do and take direction from them. He referred to priority five, Property Crime – Public Offenders, and noted that they are addressing this proactively as well and having zero tolerance for property crimes. Sgt. Peters noted that last Friday they had a traffic stop and they located a loaded handgun under the front seat of the vehicle. He noted that



they are aware of organized crime in the community and are doing what they can to lay charges. He noted that these individuals are not from the community, that they have no business here and that they should leave, and that the RCMP are working to remove them from the community through the legal process. The Sgt. Noted that their prisoner count is also down due to Covid-19. Cr. Westwell noted his disappointment at the return of organized crime. He noted that if this is coming from Hay River and High Level, if that means the this is ongoing still through the border. Cr. Westwell inquired if the RCMP plans to take advantage of the border restrictions to address drug trafficking. Sgt. Peters noted that many of these individuals are not from here, and some are from Hay River. He noted that there are individuals who are not from here are entering the territories and not self-isolating. He noted that some are from High Level and are making it past the border. He noted that they are having information that they are hoping for the checkpoint to be moved from Enterprise, as people from Hay River were able to freely travel south of the checkpoint, meet individuals to pick up items, and return. Cr. Campbell noted that they should have RCMP police dog at the border to check vehicles as well. Sgt. Peters noted that it is a matter of resources, and noted that they are not readily available in the detachment and the police dog in Hay River is for tracking. He noted that the point of the check point is to deal with Covid, and if they use it for enforcement there are legal concerns. Sgt. Peters noted that sometimes there are individuals from Fort Smith who go to Hay River to pick up drugs. Cr. Cox noted that she sees the priorities as reflective of community concerns.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

20-100 Moved by: Cr. Cox Seconded by: Cr. McArthur That the minutes of Regular Meeting 04-20 of April 21 st , 2020 be adopted as presented. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

F. DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST

G. COUNCIL BUSINESS

a. Introduction and Consideration of Committee Reports

Corporate Services Standing Committee

20-101 Moved By: Cr. Couvrette Seconded By: Cr. Westwell That the Corporate Services Standing Committee minutes from May 5 th , 2020, be adopted as presented. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
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2020 First Quarter Variance

20-102 Moved By: Cr. Cox Seconded By: Cr. Couvrette That the 2020 First Quarter Variance report be accepted as presented.



CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Community Services Standing Committee – Cr. Couvrette referred to discussion regarding the Town taking over Community Garden and inquired if later they could do other programming in Mission Park if the situation permits. Administration noted that they have expressed interest in taking over the entire operation. The Director of Community Services noted that they will look into taking on additional roles, but that currently it is the community garden only.

20-103 Moved By: Cr. Westwell
Seconded By: Cr. Couvrette

That the Community Services Standing Committee minutes from May 12th, 2020, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action Response. – Cr. Westwell thanked the Director of Community Services for her work on advancing and expediting this. Mayor Napier thanked the Director and Administration as well.

20-104 Moved By: Cr. Cox
Seconded By: Cr. McArthur

That the Town of Fort Smith adopt the actions as laid out in the “Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action Response” Briefing Note.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ALGAP Funding – Administration noted that they advised the Deputy Minister of MACA that this recommendation was going to motion. He advised that she noted she had information to provide, but that information has not been received.

20-105 Moved By: Cr. Couvrette
Seconded By: Cr. Cox

That Mayor and Administration write a letter to the Minister to request a formal response to the ALGAP funding application.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Municipal Services Standing Committee

20-106 Moved By: Cr. Couvrette
Seconded By: Cr. Beaulieu

That the Municipal Services Standing Committee minutes from May 12th, 2020 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DPA 006-20 Kennedy Webber

20-107 Moved By: Cr. Cox
Seconded By: Cr. Couvrette

That DPA-006-20 submitted by Kennedy Webber to operate a home business Day Home from Lot 1713, Plan 4097-D, 86B McDougal Road in Fort Smith be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DPA 009-20 Lance Roberts

20-108 Moved By: Cr. McArthur
Seconded By: Cr. Couvrette

That DPA-009-20 submitted by Lance Roberts to operate a home business Equipment Training and Consulting Services from Lot 1620, Plan 2895, 31 Wandering Spirit Street in Fort Smith be approved.



CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Enactment of Bylaws and Policies

Bylaw 1003 Council Honourarium Bylaw – Third Reading – Administration noted that two weeks ago the public notice was put out with invitation to delegate. He noted that there were no concerns raised and no requests to delegate. He noted that they have met the CTV requirements and by moving this Act they can put all changes to Honoraria in place retroactively. Cr. Westwell noted that he had individuals who were aware of this and did not raise concerns. He acknowledged that consultations were done appropriately and the community was informed. Cr. Couvrette noted that under the new Bylaw the next review would happen next year and if people have thoughts they can reach out to Council over the coming months as well.

20-109 Moved By: Cr. Couvrette
Seconded By: Cr. Cox

That Bylaw 1003 Council Honourarium Bylaw be given third reading by title only.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Bylaw 1006 2020 Mill Rate Bylaw— First, Second and Third Reading

20-110 Moved By: Cr. Couvrette
Seconded By: Cr. Westwell

That Bylaw 1006 2020 Mill Rate Bylaw be introduced and given first and second reading

WHEREAS, the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the Town of Fort Smith, in the Northwest Territories, deems it to be in the public interest and is required by the provision of the Property Assessment and Taxation Act to establish Mill Rates for Municipal and School purposes; and

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the Town of Fort Smith, at a duly assembled meeting enacts as follows:

1. That this bylaw may be cited as the “2020 Mill Rate Bylaw”;

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

20-111 Moved By: Cr. Cox
Seconded By: Cr. Couvrette

That Bylaw 1006 2020 Mill Rate Bylaw be given second reading by title only.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

20-112 Moved By: Cr. Couvrette
Seconded By: D/M Smith

That Council present unanimous consent for third reading of the 2020 Mill Rate Bylaw.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D/M Smith inquired if the Town will be issuing property tax notices, and strategies regarding penalties. Administration noted that the intention is to have PILT and GIL invoicing right away and that they are clarifying with the legal team regarding waiving interest on resident property tax. He noted that if they can't waive they may delay the issue. He noted that they have enough cash flow to be okay for the coming months. D/M



Smith noted that it is encouraging to be part of a municipal corporation that is financially managed so well.

20-113 Moved By: Cr. Westwell

Seconded By: Cr. McArthur

That Bylaw 1006 2020 Mill Rate Bylaw be given third reading by title only.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

c. Appointments

d. Mayor and Council/Board Representative Updates

- i. Cr. Campbell – Cr. Campbell extended his condolences to the Bruno family and the Clarke-Paulette family. He noted that the community is inquiring why the boat launch road is not being maintained. He noted that the Town should maintain this road.
- ii. Cr. Couvrette – Cr. Couvrette noted that it is good to see places reopening but reminded people of public health orders. He noted that appreciation should be extended to essential service providers that have been working. Cr. Couvrette reminded that forest fires are a risk and to be careful. Cr. Couvrette extended his condolences to the Paulette family.
- iii. Cr. McArthur – Cr. McArthur thanked the Public Works department for their work in cleaning up the water during spring thaw. He commended the Recreation department for cleaning the ditches in Fort Smith. Cr. McArthur noted that Mayor and Administration should speak with Salt River First Nation regarding clean up on Trout Street. Cr. McArthur inquired if the fire crews could engage in fire smarting. He noted that there was a plan for drainage on Cummings Avenue and King Street and noted he would like to know what is happening there. He referred to culverts and inquired why there are not culverts under every driveway and entrance in Town. He inquired if this is up to owners.
- iv. Cr. Cox – Cr. Cox noted that she is looking forward to seeing progress on the Water and Sewer project this summer. She highlighted that consultation regarding CRC is also upcoming. She noted that there is concern regarding enforcement of the border here, and noted that she hopes the Town continues to be active in its discussion with the GNWT in enforcement of border controls and whether residents would be able to access recreational trails south of the border. Cr. Cox congratulated the PWK 2020 Graduates. Cr. Cox noted that there was an article in Cabin Radio regarding chip sealing of highway 5. She noted that they should speak with Department of Infrastructure to ensure that this work does not mirror the work conducted last year, and that it improves the road. Cr. Cox offered her condolence to Paul Clarke and Delphine Paulette-Clarke.
- v. D/M Smith – D/M Smith offered his condolence to the Clarke-Paulette family and others who have lost loved ones within the community. D/M Smith commended the Town for the work done during the pandemic in ensuring business continues as usual. D/M Smith noted that he has concerns regarding the border crossing in Fort Smith. He noted that there is dialogue on going regarding what enforcement would look like and hopes it will be implemented well. He noted that as per Sgt. Peters information, the GNWT has work to do in securing the border to prevent drug trafficking.
- vi. Cr. Beaulieu – Cr. Beaulieu sent her condolences to all those who have lost loved ones in the community. Cr. Beaulieu noted that there is garbage around the landfill and noted that this is a fire hazard. Cr. Beaulieu noted that since picnic areas and campgrounds are locked, those on the land have had camps in



the bush which could be another fire hazard in the community. Cr. Beaulieu noted her concerns regarding the border and that land users use the area south of the border. She inquired what they can do as Mayor and Council to secure the border on that side.

- vii. Cr. Pischinger – Cr. Pischinger noted that the road going into the landfill is used most this time of year and inquired if it could be graded. Cr. Pischinger sent her condolences to the Clarke-Paulette family and the Bruno family.
- viii. Cr. Westwell – Cr. Westwell thanked the Town of Fort Smith for all the work they have done and thanked the community for their efforts in maintain social distancing requirements.
- ix. Mayor Napier – Mayor Napier noted that they were contacted by Protect NWT to discuss the border at Alberta so they do not have the same confusion regarding implementation as the first time border controls were enacted. Mayor Napier noted that they are taking into consideration the Town's concerns. Mayor Napier congratulated the PWK 202 Graduating Class and noted that they may be doing some form of drive by celebration. Mayor Napier noted that she is happy to see the advertisement out for hiring of the Daycare staff. Mayor Napier offered her condolences to the families in Town who have had loved-ones pass.

e. Administration

Administration noted that the GNWT advised that they would be servicing the road to the boat launch and are waiting for it to dry. He noted that they can follow up regarding this. Administration noted that historically ENR fire crew have been reluctant to use chainsaws which makes using them for fire abatement work difficult. Administration noted that there are funds in the budget for drainage and advised that they have spoken with the local engineering firm to design drainage around the CRC. He noted that there is also a scope of work for sidewalk repair and adding a small section of sidewalk in the area towards St. Mary's and St. Anne's. Administration noted that they will do exterior work on the CRC separate from the CRC renovations. Administration noted that they do not have legislation dictating size of culverts or whether they are required. He noted that this is an item that has been on the capital plan and noted that he is soliciting proposals to get that work done. Administration noted that the RFP for the CRC closes on the 5th of June. He noted that it asks for deliverables as identified in the TAG report. He added that a lot of the space lay out is up for dialogue. He noted that they believe they can manage the construction at any point of the year. Administration noted that the Water and Sewer project will start in June and digging will not begin until mid-June. Administration noted that when they are prepared to put spring cover on the landfill after spring clean-up the debris problem will be addressed. He noted that they will have a grader on the road to landfill once it dries. Administration noted that the GNWT Lands department has encouraged people to camp in the bush and noted that they need to clean after themselves. He noted that they can reinforce their messaging regarding this.

- i. COVID-19 Update – Administration noted that the Emerging Wisely document relaxes internal controls but maintains the border in place. He noted that one concern with that approach is that there is no immunity in the community, and should the virus get in we are a susceptible environment. He stated that due to this they must maintain vigilance with what controls do exist. He added that the border is also permeable, and trucks, planes and contractors are entering the territories and not all are required to adhere to the two weeks self-isolation. Administration noted that the schools do not intend on opening with phase one. He noted that the GNWT may not release phase 2 until July otherwise this would mean people having to go to work without childcare. He added that if this happens the Town can implement more robust Daycamp programming. Administration noted that GNWT Enforcement was considering having an exception system for individuals crossing the border



south. Cr. Cox noted that it is encouraging to hear that there is dialogue happening regarding the border.

- ii. Canada Day Celebrations Update – The Director of Community Services noted that they are considering a parade around the community and are making a detailed plan to go to every street. She added that they plan to invite the RCMP, Mayor and Council, Fire, Ambulance, and any businesses that may wish to participate. She noted that staff will also be driving around distributing outdoor toys to children, and that they anticipate receiving funding to support this. The Director of Community Services noted that they are considering how to make the BBQ take place. She noted that they may consider a drive by BBQ. She noted that if Council wishes to do a fish fry they must make an order soon. She added that whatever they decide to do in regards to the BBQ, they will have to submit those plans to Protect NWT. Cr. McArthur noted that they could go ahead with ordering the fish. He stated that with the shortage of meat and supply chain concerns, they may consider ordering the fish. D/M Smith noted that it may be difficult for them to have the BBQ due to restrictions. He noted that they should consider not serving food. He noted that they could order the fish and use it on the Town's birthday on October 1st. The Director of Community Services noted that there are storage concerns if they need to store the fish. Mayor Napier noted that they could discuss with a different organization in Town regarding storage. Cr. Campbell noted that they should not be ordering the fish as it will no longer stay fresh. Cr. Westwell noted that having a BBQ may not be in line with the spirit of the social distancing restrictions. Cr. Pischinger inquired if they are waiting for a response from Protect NWT regarding food serving. The Director of Community Services noted that they are awaiting a response regarding whether this is a gathering that is within the restrictions.

H. PROCLAMATIONS

I. ABSENCE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

20-114 Moved By: Cr. Cox
Seconded By: Cr. Pischinger

That Cr. Beaulieu be excused from the Corporate Services Standing Committee meeting of May 5th, 2020.

IN FAVOUR – CR. COUVRETTE, CR. COX, CR. PISCHINGER, CR. WESTWELL, CR. MCARTHUR, CR. CAMPBELL, D/M SMITH
ABSTENTION – CR. BEAULIEU
MOTION CARRIED

20-115 Moved By: Cr. Cox
Seconded By: Cr. Couvrette

That Cr. McArthur be excused from the Community and Municipal Services Standing Committee meeting on May 12th, 2020.

IN FAVOUR – CR. COUVRETTE, CR. COX, CR. PISCHINGER, CR. WESTWELL, CR. BEAULIEU, CR. CAMPBELL, D/M SMITH
ABSTENTION – CR. MCARTHUR
MOTION CARRIED

J. DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Corporate Services Standing Committee Meeting – June 2nd, 2020
Community and Municipal Services Standing Committee Meetings – June 9th, 2020



Council Meeting 06-20 – June 16th, 2020


K. ADJOURNMENT

20-116 Moved By: Cr. Cox
Seconded By: Cr. Covurette

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes adopted this 16th day of June, 2020.



Mayor Lynn Napier



Certified Correct by the
Senior Administrative Officer Keith Morrison